THE BREAD LOAF SCHOOL OF ENGLISH
OF
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Announces the Establishment
of an Advanced Master's Degree

the Master of Letters

(M. LITT.)

50th Anniversary

JUNE 25–AUGUST 10

1969

BREAD LOAF, VERMONT

The Master of Letters Program
at the Bread Loaf School of English

Purpose of the new Advanced Master's Degree Program

The regular Master of Arts—the fifth-year degree—is now generally the entrance requirement to the teaching profession, as the baccalaureate degree was fifty years ago, when the Bread Loaf School of English was established. A higher degree, representing a sixth year of collegiate study—"the M.A. plus thirty," as it is inelegantly labelled—is increasingly demanded by the best high schools and preparatory schools as well as by junior and community colleges. Able teachers are no longer satisfied with a terminal Master of Arts. For many it has appeared that the only advanced degree still available was the doctorate, but for secondary school teachers, the research degree is not an appropriate one. To fill this need, the Bread Loaf School of English now offers an advanced graduate degree of high quality in humane and liberal letters, the equivalent of two years of graduate study in literature. It hopes in instituting this degree to make a significant contribution to the teaching of English in secondary schools.

The Master of Letters Program at Bread Loaf

The Master of Letters program builds in a concentrated and specialized way on the broader base of the Master of Arts in English, which is the first prerequisite for this degree. Students at the time of admission will select an area of literary concentration either in a period such as the Renaissance or in a genre like the novel or in a field of special study like theatre arts or comparative literature.

The Master of Letters degree can be earned in three to five summers at the Bread Loaf School of English by following an individually approved program of ten courses or Independent Honors Reading Programs. There is no requirement of a master's thesis. A maximum of two graduate courses (six hours) may be transferred from another institution in the area of specialization if these courses are of the quality of those offered at Bread Loaf.

Candidates for the Master of Letters degree may engage in as many as four Independent Honors Reading Programs during the intervening winters. Each Reading Program culminates in either a long essay or a written and oral examination undertaken at Bread Loaf at the beginning of the subsequent summer. Grades in these programs are determined on a Pass/Fail basis.

In the last summer a student must pass a comprehensive oral examination covering his whole field of concentration.

The program will at first be limited to a few highly qualified candidates. Students who have completed the Master of Arts degree with a dis-

tinguished record at Bread Loaf may be permitted to continue for the Master of Letters degree. Students not previously at Bread Loaf may be admitted to this program if they are holders of a Master of Arts rather than the Master of Arts in Teaching or the Master of Education. Candidates presenting a Master of Arts degree from another institution are accepted provisionally, and the first summer at Bread Loaf is probationary.

Application Procedure

Students should apply to Dean Paul M. Cubeta, Director of the Bread Loaf School of English, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont 05753. The catalogue and application form will be sent upon request. Students must present strong recommendations from the faculty of the institution from which they received the Master of Arts degree. There is no deadline for admission, but early application is advised to assure best accommodations.

The Faculty for 1969

George K. Anderson
Brown University

David Armstrong
University of Texas

Joel Dorius
San Francisco State

Paul Edward Gray
Princeton University

Laurence Holland
Princeton University

Douglas Maddox
Brandeis University

Julian Moynahan
Rutgers University

John F. Nims
University of Illinois

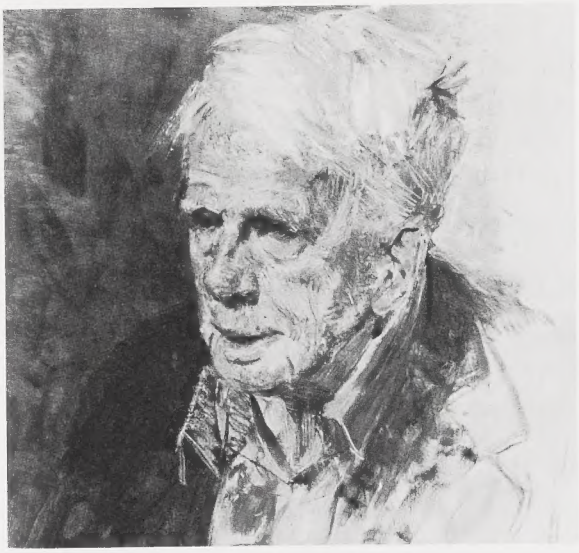
Robert Pack
Middlebury College

William L. Sharp
Stanford University

Wylie Sypher
Simmons College

Edward W. Tayler
Columbia University

Rachel Trickett
Oxford University



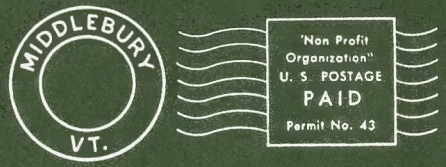
ROBERT FROST, in one of his first letters to the Director of the Bread Loaf School of English in 1923, challenged him to set the direction for Bread Loaf:

> *"You mustn't expect me to have time*
> *for adventures in safety.*
> *Just because you are in the*
> *woods and mountains is no distinction*
> *to talk of. You've got to get*
> *into something deeper*
> *than woods and mountains."*

In establishing this Master of Letters program, the faculty hopes that it is responding to the challenge of Robert Frost, Bread Loaf's staunchest friend and critic for forty-two summers, to join the Councils of the Bold in American education.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE BULLETIN

Middlebury Vermont 05753



Prof. Lockwood Merriman
77 Main Street
Middlebury, Vermont 05753
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